

Please rewrite claims 4, 5, and 11 as follows:

4. (Amended) The clamping tool according to claim 3, wherein the angle that the two joints of each toggle joint form together in the locking position of the bar system is between about 175° and about 180°.

5. (Amended) The clamping tool according to claim 1, wherein the bar system comprises:

a first swivel connection for pivotally journaling a first end of the activation bar in the base while a second end of the activation bar is free and serves as handle for the clamping tool;

a rocking bar which at a first end is pivotally journaled in the base via a second swivel connection which is nearer the at least one clamp shoe than the first swivel connection and at a second end is pivotally journaled in the clamping bar via a third swivel connection;

a first toggle joint having a first joint which at a first end is pivotally journaled in the clamping bar via a fourth swivel connection which is farther from the at least one clamp shoe than the third swivel connection, and at a second end is pivotally journaled in the activation bar via a fifth swivel connection, and a second joint consisting of the part of the activation bar that is extending from the fifth to the first swivel connection; and

a second toggle joint having a first joint which at a first end is pivotally journaled in one of the group consisting of the rocking bar and the clamping bar via a sixth swivel connection, and at a second end is pivotally journaled in the activation bar via a seventh swivel connection which in the locking position of the clamping tool is nearer the at least one clamp shoe than the first and the fifth swivel connection, and a second joint consisting of the part of the activation bar that is extending between the seventh and the first swivel connection.

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11. (Amended) A clamping tool comprising:

a base member;

a bar system mounted to the base member and comprising a plurality of mutually pivotal bars including:

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Cancelled*

an activation bar pivotally mounted to the base member and being provided with a handle member;

a racking bar also pivotally mounted to the base member and operatively connected to the activation bar via a first toggle joint; a clamping bar operatively connected to the activation bar via a second toggle joint and being pivotally mounted to said racking bar;

wherein the first and second toggle joints substantially simultaneously assume respective dead point positions, when the bar system is moved from a first, unlock position to a second, locked position, and the first and second toggle joints form an angle with respect to one another when in the dead point positions.

Please cancel claim 9, without prejudice.

Please add the following new claims:

14. (New) A clamping tool comprising:

a base member;

a plurality of mutually pivotal bars mounted to the base member, including:

an activation bar pivotally mounted to the base member;

a rocking bar pivotally mounted to the base member and operatively connected to the activation bar via a first toggle joint;

a clamping member operatively connected to the activation bar via a second toggle joint and pivotally mounted to the rocking bar;

wherein the first and second toggle joints substantially simultaneously assume respective dead point positions when the bar system is moved from a first, unlocked position to a second, locked position;

further wherein the clamping member exerts a first clamping force and a second clamping force when the first and second toggle joints assume the respective dead point positions, the first clamping force oriented substantially transverse to the second clamping force.

15. (New) The clamping tool of claim 14, wherein the first clamping force is substantially perpendicular to the second clamping force.